

REMARKS

Claims 21-34 and 38 have been amended so that they depend on claim 41, which the Examiner has indicated is allowed. Claim 31 has also been amended to correct a typographical error, whereby it was a duplicate of claim 30. Claims 20, 35-37, 40 and 42 have been canceled.

Since Applicants believe that the above amendment places the application in condition for allowance, entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, First Paragraph

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-40 and 42 (actually, claims 20-40 and 42, since claims 1-19 were canceled in the last Amendment) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 first paragraph for the reasons of record.

While Applicants disagree with the rejection for at least the reasons of record, in order to expedite allowance Applicants have canceled claims 20, 35-37, 40 and 42 and amended claims 21-34 and 38 to depend on allowed claim 41 (claim 39 depends on claim 38 and thus did not need to be amended). Accordingly, Applicants submit this rejection has been overcome, and thus withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

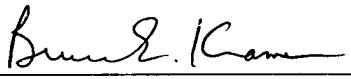
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/816,655

Attorney Docket No. Q58513

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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